

ENERGY REGULATION BOARD

Consumer Input into Regulatory Decision Making Process – The Public Hearing Process

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EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Holding of Public Hearings

- Largely in tariff cases
- Once to build a transmission line, 200km, 330kV: Zesco and Copperbelt Energy Corporation

Tariff Case

- At Least 30 days notice to customers
- Objections must be lodged (filed) with the ERB within the period
- Usually about 3-5 official objections are received
- The objections are forwarded to the utility

Public Hearings

- Currently there is no documented procedure
- The parties are advised of the date (at least 7 days before)
- The public is invited through the media

At the Hearing

- **Ground Rules** (announced at the meeting)
 - No political parties
 - Objector's lawyer allowed (but no one has appeared with one so far)
 - Utility
 - Others (on permission by the Board)
 - Press present
 - Whole event recorded
 - Transcript made available to public

At the Hearing cont'd...

-Simple

- No oath (swearing)
- Staff (ED) facilitates
- Staff may ask questions
- Board Members merely listen but may also ask questions for clarity
- An indication is given as to when a decision would be made

Other

- The whole process takes about 60-90 days
- Zesco “hates” public hearings
- Attendance about 60-80 people
- Number of objections few
- Quality of objections